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## SOME SUGGESTED VENEREAL DISEASE ORDINANCES.

While a large part of the administrative efforts to control venereal diseases consists in educating the people concerning the nature of these diseases and their influence on the health and welfare of mankind, restrictive public measures also play an important rôle.

The campaign waged in this country against the venereal diseases has already been carried on sufficiently long to indicate the desirability of a number of legislative enactments having to do with the reporting of cases of venereal disease, the detention of certain types of venereally infected, the control of prostitution, the traffic in patent nostrums for the cure of venereal diseases, and the like. Based on this experience and on general epidemiological principles the Public Health Service, through its Division of Venereal Diseases, has just prepared a compilation of suggested ordinances which have proved successful in combating venereal diseases.<sup>1</sup>

These measures are recommended for municipal enactment with the suggestion that in every case they be examined by competent local counsel for changes in form, or in substance if necessary, as may be dictated by special constitutional, legislative, or charter considerations.

It is manifestly impossible to prepare forms of ordinances which will, in the original wordings, exactly fit the varying local requirements. The purpose of the several ordinances contained in this pamphlet is only to suggest in substance desirable and effective legislation. Changes in titles, enacting clauses, penalty provisions, and other formal or administrative details may be found necessary.

It is presumed that every city has general legislation prohibiting prostitution, pandering, and the keeping of disorderly houses, and the suggested measures are supplemental to such general legislation.

Each of these suggested ordinances has been in successful operation in some city and has been found effective in its particular phase of the general fight to prevent the spread of venereal diseases.

Therefore, it is further suggested that alterations of text be confined as much as possible to purely formal considerations.

Persons interested in such legislation or ordinances may obtain copies of this bulletin by addressing the United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

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<sup>1</sup> Venereal Disease Ordinances. V. D. Bulletin No. 39. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.